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Furman University

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Kresge award: \$1 million challenge for Townes Center

The Kresge Foundation has awarded Furman a \$1 million challenge grant that will go toward renovation and expansion of the Charles H. Townes Center for Science.

As a condition of the grant, Furman is required to complete funding for the project by September 1, 2007. The university still needs to raise approximately \$7.5 million in private funds.

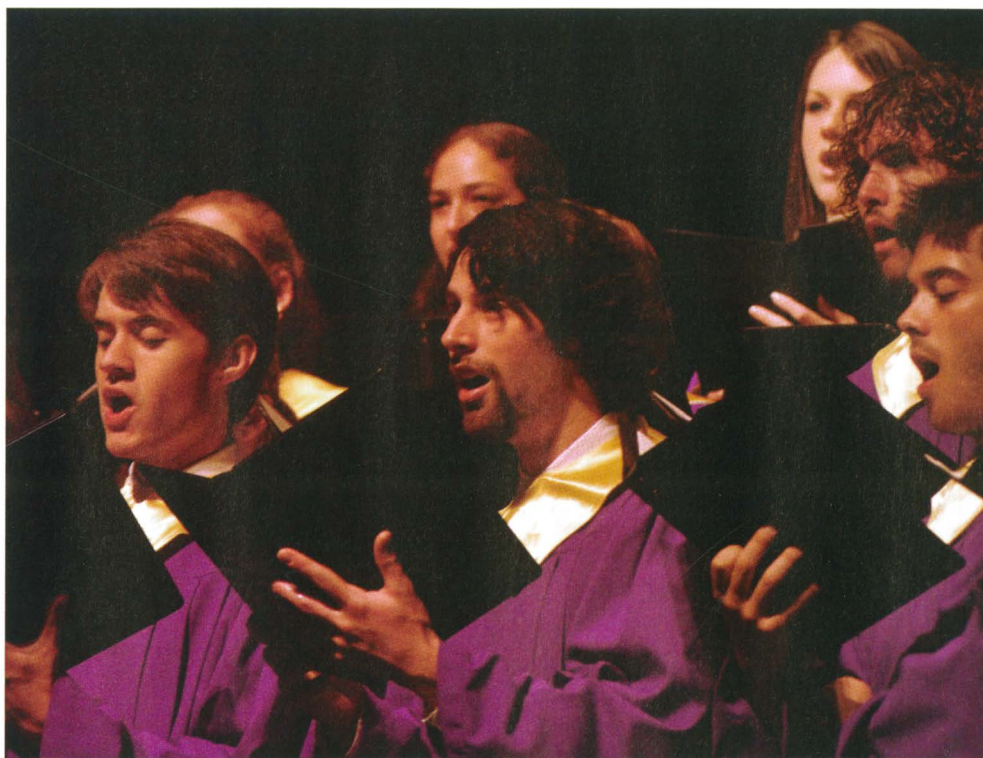
Construction began on the \$60 million science complex in the spring and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2008.

"We've been diligently raising money for the science complex, and this generous grant from The Kresge Foundation provides us with even greater momentum to realize our goal," says Furman president David Shi.

The Townes Center will consist of two new buildings and a renovated John L. Plyler Hall, the university's existing science building. The complex will house the departments of biology, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, and physics. The science center will also include the departments of mathematics and computer science in Richard W. Riley Hall, which will be connected to the new halls.

The Kresge Foundation, based in Troy, Mich., is an independent, private foundation with \$3 billion in assets. It was created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge. Through its grant-making programs, the foundation seeks to strengthen non-profit organizations by catalyzing their growth, connecting them to their stakeholders and challenging greater support through grants.

As of June, The Kresge Foundation had awarded 49 grants totaling \$29.4 million in 2006.



Singers, Pops to reunite for Christmas concerts

A little more than 10 years after the Furman Singers traveled to Boston to perform in a July 4 concert with the Boston Pops under the baton of Keith Lockhart '81, the two groups are once again preparing to work together.

This time, the Pops and the Singers will combine for four Christmas concerts November 29-December 2, during the Pops' annual Christmas tour. Their performances will include a concert on Friday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Furman's Timmons Arena.

The Singers are also scheduled to join the Pops for concerts on November 29 in Schenectady, N.Y., November 30 at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., and December 2 in Danville, Ky. The Pops requires a 60-voice ensemble, so special auditions will be held in the fall to determine the touring choir from among the 100-voice group.

Bingham L. Vick, Jr., conductor of the Singers since 1971, says that he and Lockhart had discussed a reunion of the Singers and the Pops on several occasions, but timing and conflicts with the university's academic calendar proved to be impediments. This year's arrangements allow for the Singers to miss a limited number of classes, and

with proper planning the disruption to the students' academic schedules should be minimal.

Lockhart and the Pops have performed on several occasions at Greenville's Bi-Lo Center, and he has conducted the Furman Symphony Orchestra in McAlister Auditorium. The December 1 concert will be his first appearance with the Pops at Furman.

The 2006 season marks Lockhart's 12th at the helm of the Boston Pops. He was appointed the group's 20th conductor in February 1995, succeeding John Williams. Since 1998 he has also served as music director of the Utah Symphony.

In June the Brevard (N.C.) Music Center announced that Lockhart will become artistic advisor of the center's summer institute on October 1, 2007. Lockhart attended the summer institute in 1974 and '75, studying piano and bass clarinet. He is a recipient of the center's Distinguished Alumni Award and has served on its board of trustees. His parents live in Brevard.

Reserved seat tickets for the Furman performance are scheduled to go on sale October 14 at a cost of \$50 and \$25. For details call (864) 294-3097 or visit www.timmonsarena.com.